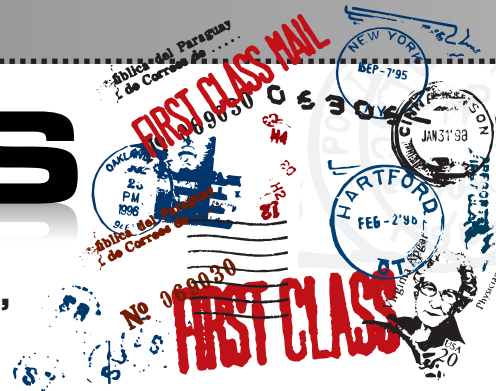


COMMENTS

Got something to say about Airman? Write us at airman@dma.mil or visit www.AIRMANonline.af.mil, to share views with fellow readers.



ARMY (AIR CORPS) STRONG

I was reading your excellent article on Chuck Yeager when I saw, "Pioneers in Blue" features Airmen from the Army Air Corps in World War I through the present." I'd say it was a bit of a historical gaffe given that the Army Air Corps did not exist until 1926. This was a "Heritage" article and while otherwise very interesting, missed a significant aspect of America's Air Force history.

Col. Steve Teske
USAF Retired



Editor's note: Members of the U.S. Army Air Service served in World War I. The Air Service was renamed the Army Air Corps in 1926. So, technically, the Army did have an aviation division before 1926, but it was not called the Army Air Corps until that time.

THE AIRMAN STANDARD

Why does Airman magazine continue to use non-standard abbreviations for Air Force ranks as opposed to the official rank abbreviations? Specifically, the magazine continues to abbreviate with period punctuation marks, which is something the U.S. Air Force does not do. For example, Airman magazine abbreviates the rank of lieutenant colonel as "lt. col." instead of "lt col" as is both proper and unique to our service. This has been the USAF standard since before I was commissioned in 1994. Shouldn't Airman, as the official magazine of the USAF, comply?

Lt. Col. Robert C. Hume

Editor's note: Air Force publications, including Airman magazine, follow Associated Press Stylebook guidelines on grammar, punctuation and usage. The AP stylebook is considered the newspaper and magazine industry standard.

MR. MASTER SGT. (RET.)

In the November-December issue, the first item in the Comments section is "The Best Of Jake." You refer to the artist as "Mr. Schuffert." Surely you meant Master Sgt. Schuffert. I don't believe the Air Force policy to address retired members by their rank, stated so emphatically by Gen. Fogleman when he was chief of staff, has been rescinded.

Col. Wayne Pittman
USAF Retired

Editor's note: All who honorably retire from the military are entitled to retain their rank as a title. Often, however, a civilian courtesy title is used for a retired member unless the individual has indicated a preference otherwise.

X FACTOR

Your article on Charles E. Yeager perpetuates the myth that Yeager made his famous Oct. 14, 1947, supersonic flight in an airplane called the X-1 — as does Yeager's own automobile license plate.

On that date, the Air Force had never had a plane called the X-1. Yeager made his flight in the Bell XS-1 rocket plane. The XS-1 was re-designated X-1 months later.

Your article also gives Yeager's rank incorrectly. Having been elevated on the retired list, he is a retired major general, not a retired brigadier general.

Your article also misstates the type of aircraft in which British test pilot Geoffrey De Havilland was killed. The aircraft was a De Havilland D.H.108, not a Gloster Meteor.

Bob Dorr



Editor's note: The author of the article on Brig. Gen. (retired) Charles E. Yeager chose to refer to the plane by its re-designated title, X-1. We acknowledge that 'Bell' should have been included in the title.

While then-President George W. Bush did recommend General Yeager for a promotion to major general, Congress has not yet confirmed the action. In the Air Force, Congressional confirmation is required for official promotion to ranks of brigadier general and above.

Geoffrey de Havilland Jr. was indeed flying a De Havilland DH-108 when he was killed. We regret the error.

CIVILIAN CAMOUFLAGE

First, I'd like to thank you for putting together a great periodical. I encourage all the Airmen in the squadron to read your stories.

I did want to bring up something I noticed in your November-December 2010 edition of *Airman* magazine, under the Profile section (pg. 34). You have a photo of Medical Technician Master Sgt. Jenny Carney. Not sure if *Airman* magazine photographers are aware of the AF Dress & Personal Appearance instruction, but Sergeant Carney is in uniform, yet is wearing her hair in a ponytail which extends below her collar. According to the AFI, hair will not extend below on any side of an invisible line drawn parallel to the ground at the bottom edge of the shirt collar regardless of length. She's also wearing dangling earrings, which according to the AF instruction should be small spherical, conservative round diamond, gold, pearl, or silver earrings, which should be worn with any uniform combination and worn as a set. If member has multiple holes only one set of earrings will be worn in the lower earlobe. When members wear civilian clothes for duty they will conform to AFI requirements.

You have a large audience, to include junior Airmen. When they see a photo of a SNCO or any AF member, for that matter, in *Airman* magazine, they assume a staff member has verified that members photographed are in compliance with AF instructions. Which, in turn will lead them to believe that since Sergeant Carney is wearing her hair in that fashion and earrings of that style it is authorized for all. As AF members, it's our responsibility to enforce standards. I do this every day and expect all my fellow SNCOs and NCOs to do the same, but we need your help as well. Thank you for all you do.

I do enjoy reading every issue and always look forward to the next. Keep up the great work.

Senior Master Sgt. Gerald R. Price Mars
451st Intelligence Squadron first sergeant
RAF Menwith Hill, UK

Editor's note: We regret any confusion this photo may have caused. Master Sgt. Jenny Carney is a member of the Reserve, and is wearing camouflage-like scrubs, not an actual military uniform. She wears these scrubs at her civilian job to indicate her involvement with the Air Force. As she is at a civilian job and not in uniform, she is not subject to AFI regulations.



PLANNER PLANS

I received a copy of the Chuck Yeager *Airman* magazine and it came with an *Airman* calendar. First, I want to say that your magazine is the best magazine on Air Force updates and stories. I enjoyed it while I was on active duty and still do in my retirement. I am currently working at Randolph Air Force Base as a civilian and when I saw the calendar I was surprised, the calendar was good and comes in handy at the office and home. The only thing that would make the calendar as great as the magazine would be to add the Julian date to the dates of the calendar. In the section [where] I work, we deal with Julian dates on a daily basis and while our work areas are small, your calendar fits in just right. I was wondering if you would consider adding the Julian dates on future calendars. Again thanks for the great product and service you provide to all of the Air Force family.

Robert Rivera

Editor's note: We appreciate the positive feedback and are happy you like the calendar. At this time, we have no plans to add Julian dates, but will consider it for future editions.

Airman

Official magazine of the U.S. Air Force
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